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7 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

SUBJECT : The New Soviet Government

The Moscow radio has announced a major reorganization of the Communist Party and the Government of the USSR made by decision of a joint meeting of the Plenum (full session) of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the USSR Council of Ministers and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. These shifts clearly put Malenkov in the number-one position. A joint session of the legislative and executive branches and organs of the party appointed the new government and party leaders. This procedure is unprecedented but it achieved the appearance of complete unanimity at the top.

The new Presidium (Politburo) of the Communist Party is reduced in membership from the 25 full members and 11 candidate members elected at the recent 19th Party Congress to 10 full members and 4 candidate members. In the announcement Georgi M. Malenkov headed the list, clearly indicating his leading position in the Party Presidium, followed by Beria, Molotov, and others. The new Secretariat of the Central Committee consists of Malenkov and other prominent party specialists of whom only Khrushchev, a long-time protege of Malenkov's, and Malenkov are both on the Presidium and the Secretariat.

The sweeping governmental changes, centralizing power in the Council of Ministers under Malenkov as Chairman, and four experienced men, Beria, Molotov, Kaganovich, and Bulganin appears as an emergency move aimed at tightening and streamlining the administrative organization. The extensive reorganization and merger of several major ministries can also be viewed in this manner. Organizationally, it returns to a system similar to that used during World War II.

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Preliminary analysis of the reorganization of economic ministries indicates that the only two major units not included in this reorganization were the Ministry of Armaments and the Ministry of the Aviation Industry, which have been self-contained since 1936. The eight remaining ministries have been merged into two, one of which now includes naval shipbuilding and has been assigned to Malynchev, a leading administrator in the tank and shipbuilding industries. The other ministry reunites the explosives industry of World War II and has been assigned to Saburov, the newly relieved Chairman of the State Planning Commission.

The extensive scope of the reorganizations, particularly the economic ministries, and the speed with which they were announced appears to reflect a previously well-worked out plan for a time of crisis. The return of various members of the old Politburo to the control of key ministries, such as Beria to the Ministry of Interior (which now includes the state security organization, the MGB), Molotov to Foreign Affairs and Bulganin to the Ministry of War places in responsible experienced hands these ministries, important in countering any unrest within the Orbit.

Despite Malenkov's preeminent position, the fact that the top members of the old Politburo have nevertheless been accorded prominence, some of them being returned to positions previously held, and have been renamed as Deputy Chairmen suggests at least a temporary agreement among them and presents a united front to the Russian people and to the world. It is believed that these shifts significantly lessen the possibility of any immediate struggle for power.

The new memberships of the leading bodies of the Communist Party are:

PRESIDIUM

MALENKOV	51	KAGANOVICH	60
BERIA	54	MIKOYAN	58
MOLOTOV	63	SABUROV	
VOROSHILOV	72	PERVUKHIN	
KHRUSHCHEV	57		
BULGANIN	53		

ALTERNATES: SHEVERNIK, PONOMAREV, NIKOLAI, BELNIKOV, BAGIROV

Only members of the old Politburo not chosen for the new Presidium are A. A. Andreev and A. N. Kosygin, and they were not elected to full members of the Presidium following the 19th Party Congress.

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MALENKOV  
KHRUSHCHEV  
ARISTOV  
MIKHAILOV  
SUSLOV  
IGNATIEV  
SHATALIN  
POSPELOV

Important changes in governmental set-up include:

Council of Ministers:

Chairman: G. M. MALENKOV

1st Deputy Chairman: BERIA, MOLOTOV, BULGANIN  
KAGANOVICH

Other important ministerial and government changes include:

BERIA as Minister of Interior (now including MVD and MIB)

MOLOTOV as Foreign Minister

BULGANIN as Minister of War (1st Deputies ZHUKOV and VASILIEVSKI)

SABUROV as Minister of Machine Building

MALYSHEV as Minister of Transport and Heavy Machine Building

VOROSHILOV as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet  
(replaces SHVERNIK, who is appointed chairman of the  
Central Trade Union Council)

VYSHINSKY as Permanent Delegate to the UN

Background information on key members of the new Soviet Government  
is attached.

ALLEN W. DULLES  
Director

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON KEY MEMBERS OF THE NEW SOVIET GOVERNMENT

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MALENKOV, Georgi Maksimilianovich

Personal Data: Born January 8, 1902 in Zhkalev (formerly Orenburg).

Education: Graduated from Moscow Higher Technical College, 1925.

Honors, decorations: Order of Lenin; title: Hero of Socialist Labor and Gold Medal with Hammer & Sickle, 1943; Order of Lenin, 1945.

Malenkov began his rise in 1925 as personal secretary to Stalin, where his task was reportedly the collection of dossiers of compromising material and other data concerning the personal conduct of prominent Party workers. He continued this work even when he was in charge of the Organizational Section of the Moscow Party Committee from 1930 to 1934. It has been said that during the purge trials Malenkov was so much in Stalin's confidence that he instructed the Public Prosecutor Vyshinsky, in Stalin's name.

Until 1939 he worked behind the scenes, but in March of that year he came to the fore when he was elected to the Central Committee of the Party and became head of the Personnel Administration, member of the Orgburo and member of the Party Secretariat. Having assumed these vital posts, he was able to procure the appointment of his proteges in important party jobs on the regional level.

In March 1946, Malenkov was made a full member of the Politburo, but in the Fall of that year suffered some loss of prestige, as he was dropped from the public eye, and lost the designation of Party Secretary. However, at this time he was appointed as Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers. This eclipse of Malenkov coincided with the rapid return to favor of Andrei Zhdanov, and gave rise to widespread speculation regarding antagonism between these two men.

In 1948 Malenkov was again listed as a Party secretary, and assumed a public role. Following Zhdanov's death in August of that year, Malenkov returned to third place in Politburo listings. Since that time, he has steadily risen in importance within the Soviet hierarchy.

Malenkov possesses an exceptional memory combined with great organizing talent. He is believed to be anti-semitic. He is reported to have been twice married.

**BERIYA, L. P.**

1917 Joined Georgian Branch of the Russian Social Democratic Party; took part in the Revolution.  
1918-1920 Underground work in Baku and Georgia during the Bolshevik-Menshevik struggles.  
1921-1931 Occupied important positions in the Cheka (Secret Police) of the Transcaucasia. Later he became head of the Cheka in the Georgian Republic.  
1931-1938 First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party.  
1938-1946 Peoples' Commissar of Internal Affairs of the USSR (NKVD).  
1939 Appointed alternate member of the Politburo.  
1941-1945 Member, State Defense Committee during World War II.  
1941-1953 Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers.  
1946 Elevated to full membership of the Politburo.

After 1946 Beriya is believed to have been responsible for the over-all direction of the Secret Police, Intelligence and Atomic Energy Program of the USSR.

**MOLOTOV, V. M.**

1905 Active in the Russian Revolution of 1905.  
1906-1916 Engaged in revolutionary activity.  
1917 Member of Petrograd Military Revolutionary Committee and chairman of the Petrograd Council of Workers and Peasants Deputies.  
1920 Secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party.  
1921-1926 Alternate member of the Politburo.  
1926-1953 Member of the Politburo.  
1930-1941 Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Premier).  
1939-1949 Foreign Minister of the USSR.  
1941-1953 First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers.  
1949-1953 Molotov is believed to have supervised the conduct of Soviet foreign policy.

**BULGANIN, N. A.**

1917 Joined the Bolshevik Party.  
1922-1927 Member of Administration and later director of the Electro-technical trust in Moscow.  
1931-1937 Head of the city government of Moscow.  
1937-1938 President of Russian Federated Socialist Republic.  
1940-1943 Deputy Chairman of the Economic Council of the USSR.  
1944-1945 Member of State Defense Committee.  
1944-1946 First Deputy Minister of the Armed Forces of the USSR.  
1946 Appointed alternate member of the Politburo.  
1948 Elevated to full membership in Politburo.

1947-1949 Minister of the Armed Forces USSR.  
1949-1954 Politburo member and Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers believed to be in charge of the Armed Forces.

BAGIROV, M. D.

First Secretary of the Azerbaijan Central Committee since at least 1947.

BREZHNEV, L. I.

First Secretary of the Zaporozhe Oblast Party Committee, Ukrainian SSR, 1948-1950. First Secretary of the Moldavian SSR Central Committee 1950-November 1952. Elected alternate member of the Party Presidium and member of the Secretariat October 1952.

GORKIN, A. F.

Longtime Secretary, Presidium of Supreme Soviet.

IGNATIEV, S. D.

Second Secretary of the Central Committee of the Belorussian Communist Party 1947-1949. Representative of the All-Union Central Committee of the Communist Party to the Uzbek Republic 1950. Believed to be Minister of State Security since 1953.

KABANOV, I. G.

Minister of Electrical Industry from 1940 to 1951. Identified in February 1953 as Chairman of the State Committee for Material-Technical Supplies for the National Economy (Gossnab). Elected alternate member of the Presidium in October 1952.

IGNATOV, N. G.

Elected alternate member of the Central Committee in 1939, excluded in 1941. Secretary of the Krasnodar Krai Party Committee 1949-November 1952. Elected alternate member of the Party Presidium and a member of the Secretariat in October 1952.

**KACANOVICH, L. M.**

Minister for Heavy Industry, 1939-1940. Minister of Building Materials Industry 1946-1947. Named as economic troubleshooter. Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers since 1938. Member of Party Central Committee since 1924. Member of Politburo since 1930.

**KHRUSHCHEV, N. S.**

Full member of Politburo since 1938. First Secretary, Ukraine Party Central Committee and First Secretary of Moscow Oblast Party organization since 1949.

**KUZNETSOV, V. V.**

Chairman, All-Union Trade Unions Council since 1944.

**MALIK, Y. A.**

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs since 1946 and acting First Deputy Minister since June 1953.

**MALYSHEV, V.**

Elected member, Central Committee 1939. Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers since 1940. Minister of Tank Industry 1943-1946. Minister of Transport Machinery Industry 1946-1947. USSR Minister of Shipbuilding since 1950. Elected member of the Party Presidium in October 1952.

**MELNIKOV, L. G.**

First Secretary of the Azerbaijan Central Committee since at least 1947. First Secretary of the Ukraine Central Committee since 1949. Elected member of the Central Committee and the Presidium October 1952.

**MIKHAILOV, N. A.**

Secretary General of the Komsomol (youth organization), 1938-October 1952. Elected member of the Central Committee and member of the Orgburo 1939. Elected member of the Party Presidium and Secretariat in October 1952.

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**MIKOYAN, A. I.**

Member of the Central Committee since 1923 and member of the Politburo since 1935. Minister of Foreign Trade from 1938-1949. Deputy Chairman of Council of Ministers and elected member of Presidium Central Committee October 1952.

**PEGOV, N. M.**

Member of the Central Committee since 1939. Secretary of the Maritime Krai Party Committee 1938-1947 and Chief of Light Industry Section of the Central Committee since 1947. Elected alternate member of the Party Presidium and a member of the Secretariat in October 1952.

**PERVUKHIN, M. G.**

Elected member of the Central Committee 1939, Minister of Chemical Industry 1943-1950. Deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers since 1950. Elected member of the Presidium, October 1952.

**POHOMARENKO, P. K.**

Elected member of the Central Committee 1939. Secretary of Belorussian SSR Central Committee, 1938-1947. Secretary of the Central Committee, USSR, since 1950; elected member of the Party Presidium and member of the Secretariat, October 1952.

**POSPELOV, P. N.**

Editor-in-chief of Pravda from 1940-1949, and a member of the Editorial Board of Bolshevik since 1948. Appointed head of the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute in 1949, released January 1953. He has been a member of the Central Committee since 1939.

**SABUROV, M. Z.**

Chairman of the USSR State Planning Commission 1949-1943. Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers since 1947 and Chairman of the USSR State Planning Commission since 1949. Elected member of the Central Committee and the Presidium in October 1952.

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SHATALIN, N. M.

Alternate member of Central Committee and member of the Central Auditing Commission since March 1939; member of the Orgburo since 1946; believed to have been chief of Personnel Administration of the Central Committee until its abolishment in 1948. He has not been identified since.

SHVERNIK, N. M.

Chairman, Presidium of Supreme Soviet since 1946.

VOROSHILOV, K. Y.

Member of the Politburo since 1926; Deputy Chairman of the Council since 1940. Member of the State Defense Committee from 1941-1944; member Allied Control Commission 1945-1947. Voroshilov was a close personal friend of Stalin since the days of the revolution.

VYSHINSKY, A. Y.

USSR Public Prosecutor, 1935-1939. Member of the Central Committee since 1939. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs 1946-1949. Since 1949 he has been Minister of Foreign Affairs.